

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A password management system, comprising:

graphical user interface logic residing on a first computer system operable to receive a current password from a user, prompt the user to determine whether the user desires to change the current password, and responsive to the user response receive a new password;

password confirmation logic residing on the first computer system operable to confirm the current password associated with the user on a switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;

password administration logic residing on the first computer system, responsive to the password confirmation logic and the graphical user interface, operable to receive the new password and to change the current password on the switched access remote test system; and

expiration logic residing on the first computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on the second computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to send the current password to the switched access remote test system and receive a response from the switched access remote test system.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to compare the response with a plurality of expected responses and determine whether the current password provided by the user is valid.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the response is an alphanumeric string, and the plurality of expected responses comprises erroneous responses and successful responses.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password confirmation logic determining that the current password provided by the user is not valid.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a request to change the password from the graphical user interface.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a confirmation of the password from the password confirmation logic.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the password administration logic is operable to send the current password and the new password to the switched access remote test system and receive a response from the switched access remote test system, and compare the response to a plurality of expected responses

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password administration logic determining that the new password provided by the user was not accepted by the switched access remote test system.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a password file operable to store a set of data comprising the expiration date of the current password, wherein the expiration logic is operable to read the password file and request that the graphical user interface notify the user that the current password is nearing expiration responsive to the expiration date.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing systems.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of managing passwords, comprising:

providing a user with a graphical user interface residing on a first computer system;

receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;

determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on the second computer system;

prompting the user on whether to change the current password;

receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting;

confirming the current password with the switched access remote test system;
and

requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises:

sending the current password to the switched access remote test system; and
receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises notifying the user of an error responsive to comparing the response from the switched access remote test system.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system along with the current password.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system after sending the new password.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing the received response.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password; and
prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for managing passwords, the program operable to perform:

providing a user with a graphical user interface residing on a first computer system;

receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;

prompting the user on whether to change the current password;

determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on the second computer system;

receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting; confirming the current password with the switched access remote test system;

requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises:

sending the current password to the switched access remote test system; and
receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises notifying the user of an error responsive to the comparing the response from the switched access remote test system.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system along with the current password.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system after sending the new password.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 26, the program further operable to perform comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, the program further operable to perform providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing the received response.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, the program further operable to perform:

reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password; and

prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date.